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Pr Chapman

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Mrs Mysing, N. 9th St
March 8th.

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Pneumonia Typhoidea.

An Inaugural Dissertation on Pneumonia Typhoidea: or Late Winter Epidemic of the United States.

by

William Wardrop Stewart.

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North Carolina.

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Pneumonia Typhoidea.

This formidable disease, emphatically called a Pestilence, which has depopulated so many sections of our Country, with a malignancy and rapidity scarcely surpassed, by any other, has justly engaged the pens of the most distinguished practitioners. It is, therefore, presumed my feeble pen will shed, but little elucidation upon the subject. My observations, will be, more immediately confined to the disease as it appeared in the Southern States.

History. — In the year 1806, the attention of practitioners in New-Hampshire, was arrested by some sporadic cases of a pestilential fever, which were of an exceedingly malignant and unmanageable character. After having continued in that part of the Country for a time, it gradually disseminated itself through New-England, and subsequently entered New-York and Canada; having remained awhile in this last point, it resumed its progress, and passed through this state, visiting Philadelphia for the first time, late in the Winter of 1813, passing through Ohio, Kentucky

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and the N. W. portions of Virginia; made its appearance in the Southern States, in the year 1815; reappearing there three successive winters, continuing through the spring, gradually losing its violence on each, and finally disappearing, with the exception of some of its characteristics, associated or blended with other diseases, which at this time have probably entirely subsided.

For the purpose of discussing this subject as minutely, as its diversified character will admit, I will institute the following division.

First; Typhoidea embracing a determination to the Head; and to the Pulmonary system.

Secondly; Typhoidea, possessing no evident local determination.

Thirdly; Typhoidea, associated with affection of the fauces, and affection of the stomach.

Fourthly; Sthenic, or Inflammatory action.

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By the generic term Typhoidea, I wish it to be distinctly understood, as employed upon the present occasion, strictly meaning Typhoid action; although not unfrequently accompanied with phenomena, as will appear in the sequel, essentially different from those which characterize genuine, or well defined typhoid action.

The word Pneumonia is objectionable, in the general acceptation, or in any shape of the disease whatever, with the exception of that variety of it, which principally involves the pneumonic system.

I have used the term Sthenic in contradistinction to Typhoidea; because the complaint in the former differed materially from the latter, and required an opposite mode of treatment.

In the first place, I will proceed to detail the general symptoms, and then designate those which attended each variety of it, so far as practicable.

The attack was generally introduced with a sudden and uncommon prostration of power accom-

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paired with alternate pallor and flushing; at the skin at first cold and hot in rapid succession became in a short time very and pale or a mottled appearance the face sometimes bronzed or of a brass hue, or resembling that of bronze. The alarmation contracted the forehead smooth and retreated eyes wild or glassy and sunk and the whole physiognomy of the patient highly expressive of an indescribable degree of anxiety and distress. The pulse which at first was slow and apparently depressed, in a few hours became quick, full and tremulous, like the vibrations of a small chord and alternately sunk so as scarcely at all to be perceptible. Concomitantly, from the commencement there was some affection of the head and frequently wandering of the mind, which was soon converted into wild delirium that terminated in stupor and lethargy.

Sometimes the attack was infinitely more violent than the above described, ushered in

of an unprecedented prostration and suspension of all the functions of the animal economy. It is stated that "workmen amidst their [illegible] occupations were seized and struck as it were with a stroke of lightning": but it is believed that these cases were of very rare occurrence.

When the attack was milder it was attended by excessive pains in the great and small joints of the body and even in the bones and muscles; these pains in the toes and fingers were often the first symptoms of attack, and likewise in the side, stomach, back, neck, head and feet, and were so extremely acute, as to be compared to the sting of a bee or wasp or to the pain that is produced by the blow of a hammer. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] head materially affecting the [illegible] of [illegible], inducing paralysis, delirium and coma. Even in the incipient stage extreme languor of body

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was entered, in which it was very active
jpated. When it was any long, it was it
ting, or vibrating tongue hoarse and hurried and
many other symptoms soon made their appear
ance. Other accidents were apt to attend the
tonsils a painful swelling, respiration and
eyes were suffused to the face in the food on
some occasions a marked agitation which nothing
could subdue and on others a sound was
found as to approximate apoplexy. Delirium,
was experienced in the various forms common
incident to the attendance "extent that
soda". When patient remained rational he was
disturbed, and incessantly muttered to the fear
of death; would continue sight and the imagi
nation fabricate and induce to see the most
hideous "phantoms and hallucinations" and "ex
claim these are all the precursors of death".

Having now considered the general symp
toms, I will proceed to enumerate those of the de
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ferent shapes of the complaint.

In the first of these the attack not unfrequently commenced with yawning, restlessness, weariness, pain in the back, and with succeeded immediately with acute, agitating pains in the head, different parts of the body and joints of the extremities, which became ultimately fixed in the head; attended with alternations of chills and flushes of heat. Sometimes these pains introduced the disease; — tongue dry and parched with less or more thirst, — skin at first, cold and hot, in quick vicissitudes, then pale, of a motley character; or of a livid or leaden colour, particularly on the face; — eyes weak, weeping and suffused with blood, having lost all their vivacity, and before death, sunk and covered with a pellicle; face somewhat tumid; the pain in the head extreme, — [illegible] the [illegible] excessive mental vigilance, etc; the pupils contracted, giddiness increased when drawn in its various quarters

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as the case advanced, and produced coma.

The pulse, at the beginning was slow, and somewhat depressed; but in a short time became weak, quick, tremulous; or intermitting, and finally sunk.

The second form of the disease commenced with all the symptoms of pneumonic congestion and inflammation. These cases began with chill and fever, pain in the extremities side and chest, attended with difficult, frequent respiration.

Here the determination to the lungs was unanimical, tho by the above symptoms and an excessive cough accompanied with bloody expectoration; by the flushed and tumid countenance, and the suffused eye which were observed uniformly to be concomitants of this form of the fever.

In many cases there were gastric distress, and less or more bilious vomiting. The pulse was in these instances full voluminous and strong, the soft and readily compressed, possessing none of

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that tension, which indicates active inflammation. In this stage it very much resembled the ordinary bilious pleurisies of the country and might have been mistaken for such and treated accordingly by one unacquainted with the circumstances. But, this condition of things was of short duration; in a day or two, or even in a few hours, all inflammatory action subsided, and the typhoid condition distinctly marked and established.

The muscular power, which at first, was considerably reduced, now rapidly decreased; and the symptoms were aggravated; the mind distracted, and the patient sunk down into stertorous slumber.

Most commonly if the tongue and fauces were examined, they were found covered with dark brown incrustations, hard to the touch: and to these symptoms, others were now added as cold extremities a ghastly countenance, a damp, or cold sweat; skin sometimes marked with petechiæ and vibices; — whence originated the name of Spotted fever which was given to it

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in some parts of the union. The instances of this form of the fever were numerous, altho those in which petechiæ and vibices appeared were of rare occurrence.

Symptoms thus indicative of the complaint first showed itself on the eyes on the convalescence of a malignant exhibitions which continued thus located for two or three days at the expiration of which the disease was translated to the lungs and developed all the alarmings just described.

In the third variety, it [illegible] total obscuration to the mind [illegible] the common one were, the patient was [illegible] to rise and walk about the room [illegible] with some hesitation, he complained of a total [illegible] tation of muscular power on the attempt and gradually increased until lost the [illegible] vital functions were arrested and [illegible] events occurred in a few hours and were attended with low delirium. There was [illegible] cutaneous

pace; at the pulse was not intermittent, or very and feeble or 40 strokes in a minute. The patient became covered with a cold clammy sweat from which occurs stance in the and the same appearing in other modifications. At it is probable the disease received the appellation of Cold Plague, which it had in some sections of the union. In this condition of things so great was the debility and exhaustion of excitability that the system lost all nervous energy; nor was the exhibition of the most powerful diffusible stimuli, the expedient of restoring it and establishing reaction. The patient was now perfectly regardless of surrounding objects and sinking which was indicated not only by the above symptoms, but by the coldness and rigidity of the extremities and the extremely weak vibrations or intermitting pulse.

This was as treacherous a change as the disease could assume, all positive symptoms have ceased at the commencement but at a time when least anticipated.

*Ex Mann Baillie Morgagni &c.

pated, a new and appalling phenomenon was presented of the most appalling character which often cut the shoulder chordy tale and prostrated the most sanguine hopes. It is remarkable if examinations of those who died under these circumstances had been made inflammation would have been discovered situated in some vital part - as inflammation has been known to exist without manifesting any positive or conclusive signs of its presence.*

Fourthly, In the angina in which the fauces were deeply ulcerated and were the first part of the system, in which any symptoms were manifested. There is nothing remarkable in the disease it came on exactly similar to a common catarrh or cold with considerable fever. The throat, at first was comparatively slightly affected; the patient often walked about and complained of nothing, except weakness and a sore throat. As the little time elapsed, before symptoms were exhibited which excited the utmost alarm. It seems not

intoxicated, great and sudden debility, difficult deglutition, also difficult and impeded inspiration were induced and not unfrequently collapse, succeeded by delirium and coma.

The pulse, which, at first, was small, quick and seemingly depressed now intermittent and weak.

There was a very striking difference in this disease from all other "anginose" affections; there being no enlargement of the tonsils observable; but the lining membrane of the fauces swelled, and of a dark mahogany colour; not flush as in active inflammation.

This variety of the disease was prevalent in the Carolinas; but still more so in Virginia, and generally proved very unmanageable.

Fifthly:- This modification of the epidemic deeply involved the stomach.

This organ appeared to be the one, upon which it spent its power.

It was ushered in with languor, lassitude and

much

much debility;—accompanied with partial pains in different parts of the system: but in the secondary cardia or immediately in its vicinity was permanently fixed an extremely acute pain, attended with a burning sensation and an indescribable degree of anxiety and distress,—skin cold and not attractive, and then drawn forward;—pulse slow and weak;—incoherent efforts to vomit, almost without intermission, by which the stomach was soon evacuated, after which nothing was discharged, with the exception of a little stringy mucus, occasionally tinged with bile, and drinks and beverages also were emitted almost as soon as taken, until between twenty and forty-eight hours.

On the second day from the commencement of the attack, [illegible] was the production of an altered mucous secretion, of the serous tissues, that occurs in a highly aggravated condition. To this fatal symptom, there

was

* Since writing the above I have been informed of an instance in which evacuation of the dark matter occurred, and the patient recovered.

were superadded, as cold clammy sweat, delirium and coma. This, happily of rare occurrence, was the most intractable and mortal form in which the disease presented itself. I know not of a single instance of recovery, in which the evacuation of this dark matter occurred.*

Lastly; That shape of the complaint, in which it lost its typhoid type in the commencement, and assumed an opposite one, was circumscribed or limited to some particular portions of country, and appeared in April and May.

This made its appearance by languor, lassitude, yawning, alternate chills and flushes of heat; pain in the back, limbs and extremities, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] fre-quent but strong pulse. [illegible] these with the symptoms [illegible] [illegible] days [illegible] continued fever, [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

*Dr Chapman's Lectures.

so in every instance with regard to the other diversions all of which have their primary link of the concatenation of morbid action and association situated in that organ, tho' that, it in that instance was made the one mor. immediately the subject of violent diseased action and consequently suffered more essentially.

[illegible] inflammation in the lining membranes of the cavities of the body, of a weak erysipelatous nature; the inflamed surfaces appeared somewhat livid, and on some occasions partially eroded, as in the incipient stage of gangrene.

In the brain, thorax, and abdomen there was almost invariable discovered extravasations of dark thin grumous blood; exudations of an imbrifed lymph and effusions of serous fluid.*

The mucous membrane of the bronchial vessels was often much affected, from which a secretion was produced of a dark chocolate colour; - also the stomach lined with a coat of viscid, tenacious matter, so much so, as to deprive that viscus of its susceptibility to

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* Gov. Nicholas of Virginia.

to the action of medicine address to it. *

Taking into consideration all the phenomena of the disease in its various stages and modifications; its external symptoms, in conjunction with the appearances exhibited on dissection, one can entertain little hesitation in viewing it, as a variety of typhoid action; attho' differing essentially from any species of typhus that has hitherto been described. However, it is manifest, that diseases not altogether different have been noticed; perhaps as nearly assimilated to it, as could be, in dissimilar circumstances.

Thucidydes mentions an epidemic, that appeared at Athens, and pervaded all the Southern part of the known world and seems to have produced or augmented a similar calamity in Ethiopia; Egypt and the more populous towns under the dominion of Persia. He describes the first symptoms of it, "as those of a common catarrh, or pleurisy, which yielded to no remedy," and which, at first, "were principally confined to the fauces, chest, and stomach; but in a short time

spread

* Adams on Morbid Poisons.

spread themselves over every part of the body."*

Also, by some of the early English Authors; among whom are Sydenham and Huxham. Sauvage, likewise, relates the history of one, resembling that under consideration. That form of it in which the pulmonary apparatus was principally concerned, was accurately described by him and denominated "Peripneumonia Typhodes". Nor was it till recently wholly unknown in the United States. In the year 1749, a complaint, not altogether unlike this, made its appearance in Long-Island; a description of which was given by the late Dr Bard of New York, and called by him "the Malignant Pleurisy".

The predisposing cause of it, as all other epidemics of this nature, as yet, remains involved in uncertainty and obscurity, "Causa latet vis est notissima." It would seem as it shewed itself in the winter, and generally disappeared in the spring, that a low temperature is the cause; but, as this does not uniformly produce it, this circumstance alone is then

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fore, inadequate to a solution of the difficulty; and we must necessarily resort to the gratuitous assumption of an occult morbid or vitiated quality superadded to the atmosphere, to aid us in an explanation: but what this is, in what it consists, or what induces it, I acknowledge myself altogether incompetent to explain. - If we have gratuitously assumed this, it may be asserted, that such a thing does not exist: but are we to doubt its existence upon this account? Certainly not. Our not being able to demonstrate it, does not disprove its existence, but only proves our imperfect knowledge. Equally might we affect a scepticism as to the existence of sympathy, the irritability or sensibility of the body, since neither of these qualities of vital matter have been precisely demonstrated. - Notwithstanding this, they are acknowledged and we are convinced of their existence by the phenomena which they exhibit; so therefore, ought we to be convinced, by the same description of evidence and analogy of the presence of this pestilential constitution of the atmosphere. Whatever it

is,

* By some northern practitioners Ergot has lately been considered a cause to which it will reply there is very little rye made in the southern states and it is rarely ever used as an article of diet by the Carolineans; and the Negroes on whom the disease fell most severely, live solely upon Indian corn. To attribute to a cause so questionable, and in many instances not in existence, an effect so universal in its nature appears to me about as rational as the antiquated superstitious common at home of the Scotchman who, driving a nail in just it's temple to abhease the gods with the [illegible] of wasting sickness.

be, whether it be an augmented evolution of the electric fluid, or any other subtile agent, with which we are yet unacquainted, it produces the disease both in low, mild and high temperatures with some degree of mitigation as to its violence in the latter.

Whatever diversity of sentiment may exist with regard to the predisposing cause, there can be no uncertainty as to the exciting causes. They are the same as of all other epidemics viz. in dirt sudden vicissitudes of temperature; fear, anxiety of mind, laborious mental exercise, and whatever effects any slight derangement of the system.*

It has been contended that the epidemic under consideration is contagious, but, that it is not propagated by personal contagion is unequivocally established by the universality of its prevalence, by the rapidity, with which it disseminated itself over this extensive continent; and its imposing upon other diseases its characteristics, and causing them to exact a similar mode of treatment. - Now these facts are no

torious, and facts incompatible with the laws by which diseases recognized, and acknowledged contagions are propagated. It would have required an hundred years, perhaps more, to have traversed the same route, by the action of contagion. To assign it to this, would be like attributing the water of the Ocean to its origin from a single spring.

Among the arguments advanced by the advocates for its contagious propagation, the one which demands the most attention, is, that during the late war, our troops who were stationed upon the Canadian frontier, could be traced on their march, by the spreading of this complaint in their rear: but, it is highly probable, that this was the common jail or camp fever, which, under some circumstances, is known to be eminently contagious; therefore, that argument merits but little attention.

DIAGNOSIS. — with regard to the diagnosis, as it imposed more or less of its livery upon almost all diseases, they, therefore, were made more or less

participators

* This disease is not uncommon. I have invented head stones in the dust in Mrs. from the circumstance of the violent pain in the head there often being but little or no pain in the side. In many instances the pain in the two diseases was so perfectly similar, as to afford no guide to the practitioner.

participators of it, and as has been previously mentioned, required a similar method of treatment.

I know of none, that could readily be confounded with it, with the exception of ordinary bilious plenrisy, which might be with the pneumonic pleurisy of it, but which could be distinguished from that by the following diagnostics: by the great prostration of strength, even at the commencement of the attack, by the dejected ghastly countenance; the uncommon degree of anxiety that uniformly attended; and by the full voluminous strong, the readily compressed pulse; possessing not the full strong, quick action of that in bilious pleurisy.* But even the pulse that could not always be depended upon.

Prognosis — It was rather difficult, if not altogether impracticable under certain circumstances, to form a satisfactory prognosis, as the patient even in a few minutes, from a state of apparent safety was precipitated into the most imminent danger. However, if there appeared a peculiar wretchedness depressed

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placidity of countenance, delirium, deep coma, body covered with a cold clammy sweat, polished smooth skin, or of a leaden or bronzed hue, particularly upon the forehead, or vomiting dark matter, we might with certainty pronounce unfavorably; more especially if either or both of the last mentioned symptoms were present.

Treatment — So little diversity of opinion has existed among practitioners with respect to this point; some have advocated venesection and the other directly depletory measures; others trusted exclusively to diaphoretics; while a third class confined solely in stimulants. but, finally they resolved themselves, in a large majority, into two parties, the one instituting the diaphoretic plan, the other the stimulating.

It seems to me, that each of these is admissible adapted to particular circumstances, and regulated by discretion and discrimination. Surely, no one would think of inducing diaphoresis, when the attack is so violent as almost to extinguish vitality itself, in a few minutes, or

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in an hour or two. Here, it is obvious that stimuli, and stimuli, the most diffusible are demanded; and when unanivocal indications exist of inflammatory action, no one would withhold the lancet; tho' in the greater number of instances, the diaphoretic treatment claimed a decided superiority, and proved the most successful by the concurrent testimony of the most respectable practitioners.

Of the means of inducing and sustaining diaphoresis, nothing was more appropriate or succeeded better than Dover's powder, exhibited every one, two or three hours, accompanied with strong wine whey, with hot fomentations applied to the extremities, trunk and armpits; as bags of hot salt — of hot oats — heated bricks moistened with vinegar and water; the vapour bath &c. As the disease progresses and debility increases, that class of remedies, denominated Cordial Stimulants is to be combined with the above treatment; as the volatile alkali camphor, &c: the former is preferred. It should be given in large doses; — not less than five grains and some times

* Dr. Chapman's Lectures.

times more even than, now, cooperating with these means, strong wine whey, hot toddy or Madeira wine should be largely employed. Precisely at this juncture of things and still more when the disease is farther advanced and the sinking condition more rapidly progressing, the spirit of turpentine is exhibited with evident utility, in doses of a drachm or more every half hour, or hour, pro re nata.

This appears to be one of those conditions of the system in which, it would be expedient to administer phosphorus.

This article has lately received no inconsiderable attention from European Practitioners, in all low stages of fevers, and, if reports are true, not without advantage.

It has been employed in a few cases, and its effects were uniformly those of a diffusible stimulant; creating a strong sensation of heat in the stomach, augmenting the force and frequency of the pulse; — animal temperature and the whole phenomena of stimulant action. But in each case, there was so much danger, from gastric distress, as to endanger the life of the patient.* Different methods have been recommended for its exhibition: as in pills; in gum mucilage

conserve of roses, or some such article. But a preferable one is to give it in solution, and with this view, different menstrua may be employed. It may be rubbed up with Gum Arabic, adding a little of Hoffman's anodyne liquor; also, dissolved in sulphuric or nitric æther this is the safest and most convenient preparation.

It should never be given in larger doses than from one twelfth to one fourth of a grain, or two grains in twenty-four hours. Even thus administered, alarming consequences, sometimes result. Notwithstanding, I am not disposed to abandon the hostility an agent of such energy, because, it is only by such, that those intractable diseases can be incountered. If after all these remedies, a rapid sinking of the pulse, and other indications of extreme debility and prostration are presented, we must resort to a decoction of Cantharides in spirit of turpentine, with a view to produce vesication; or irritating frictions, with cayenne pepper dissolved in brandy, and applied over the whole surface of the skin. Should the patient become unable to swallow, or the stomach lose its suscep-

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tibility, to the impression of those stimuli, they are then to be addressed to the rectum. By this practice the most beneficial effects occasionally result; even in circumstances the most alarming and desponding. The practice thus related, is calculated to meet the indications of the more simple form of the disease.

In those instances, where there is local determination, as in the pulmonary, anginose and gastric affections, it is universally acknowledged that some modification or difference of treatment is required. Emetics in these cases are of unquestionable utility. The principle upon which they act, is not only to evacuate the stomach, but to make a strong impression upon the system, through the medium of that organ; subverting the morbid action, and substituting their own. To be advantageous, it is frequently necessary, to repeat them several times, and to use the most active; tartar emetic is preferred. James' powder has been used, and is asserted to have triple power, being emetic, cathartic and diaphoretic; but, the result of experience, is that it has no superiority over the ordinary combination of tart

*** Dr Cameron's Lectures.

emt. and calomel.* When much bile is present, emetics should be succeeded by the preparations of mercury with jalap, gamboge or rhubarb. After the alimentary canal is thoroughly evacuated, the case should be treated by a course of diaphoretics, and stimulants, - as previously directed.

To allay the irratibility that invariably attends the gastric affection, it is necessary to resort to the effervescent draught, seltzer water, mint tea, lime water and milk, Sinapisions &c; but this distressing symptom often submits to nothing.

If visceral congestion or pain continue, blisters are the appropriate remedy. They are particularly indicated in the affections of the lungs, stomach and fauces. In the first case, they are to be applied over the whole chest; in the second over the epigastric region; in the third, round the neck, and, when delirium obtains over the whole head: also co operating with these in the last instance, cups, or leeches to the temples, forehead, and back of the neck.

Concerning the utility of the Lancet, no little con-

troversy has existed; but, experience has proved that it is rarely resorted to with safety and advantage; with one exception, which will be presently noticed.

By the violence of the complaint, the vital energies are so rapidly exhausted as not to justify it even if the system were labouring under congestion of the large viscera; especially the lungs. It affords little or no relief, and generally great debility and prostration immediately succeed it. In these cases there is invariably an accumulation of blood in the large viscera; and particularly in the lungs. The energy of those organs is so much impaired, that they are incapable of returning the blood to the heart: whence an engorgement occurs. In this instance, the quantity of blood in the circulation is small, and venesection at this critical juncture, does not at all relieve the half stagnating blood; but, what is detracted is taken from the general circulation; and very little even a few ounces is often productive of the most unfavourable consequences. In these circumstances it is not only safe,

but

* This practice was established principally upon the pathological views that were entertained of the disease, and proved very successful, but had the same been executed in different sections of country, it would certainly have proved as fatal as it was successful.

Dr. Chapman in his lectures remarked, that there was a district in this state, in which the disease required a free use of the Lancet, and stated, that, a respectable practitioner declared that it would submit to nothing but the Lancet.

This I presume, is similar in many respects to the one just noticed, but also somewhat different, from local causes.

out of evident benefit, to resort to topical depletion, by cups or leeches. When the lungs are oppressed by congestion these are applied to the back & chest.

By their application, the stagnant blood is solicited as it were, from these organs, and thus they are assisted in relieving their engorgement & oppression.

The inflammatory affection is treated by copious venesection at the very commencement of the attack; this is succeeded by prompt evacuations of the alimentary canal; arterial action being reduced, mild diaphoretics are resorted to; and subordinate symptoms may be managed according to their exigency.

When the typhoid condition becomes established, as occasionally happens, the remedies just enumerated are employed.*

It is said, that this strange destructive malady, was treated with much more success towards its termination; there are two reasons for this, first, because it had lost much of its malignancy; secondly, practitioners knew much better how to encounter it.

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When it first appeared, it inspired awe into the inhabitants whom it visited; insulted the efforts of man; trampled upon his means, and triumphed in the glory of its own power.

Pneumonia Bilhosa 1822.

T. J. Harper.

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